

Vute language

Vute is a Mambiloid language of Cameroon and Gabon, with a thousand speakers in Nigeria. The orthography was standardized on March 9, 1979.^[3] Noted dialect clusters are eastern, central, and Doume.

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Vute	
Native to	Cameroon
Native speakers	21,000 (1997) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mambiloid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mambila–Konja<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mambila–Vute<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tep–Vute<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vute languages<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vute</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	vut
Glottolog	vute1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vute1244) ^[2]

Phonology

Consonants

Consonants in Vute are numerous and include pulmonic and implosive airstreams. Labialization is phonemic in many consonants, some of which is dialectal.

Consonants of Vute^[3]

		<u>Bilabial</u>		<u>Labio-dental</u>		<u>Dental/Alveolar</u>		<u>Post-alveolar</u>		<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Labial-velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>	
		<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.^{††}</u>	<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.^{††}</u>	<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.^{††}</u>	<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.^{††}</u>		<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.</u>		<u>plain</u>	<u>lab.^{††}</u>
Nasal stop		[m] <i>m</i>	[m ^w] <i>mw</i>			[n] <i>n</i>					[ŋ] <i>ŋ</i>				
Implosive		[ɓ] <i>b</i>	[ɓ ^w] <i>bw</i>			[ɗ] <i>ɗ</i>	[ɗ ^w] <i>ɗw^{††}</i>								
Plosive	<u>voiceless</u>	[p] <i>p</i>				[t] <i>t</i>					[k] <i>k</i>	[k ^w] <i>kw</i>	[k͡p] <i>k͡p</i>		
	<u>voiced</u>	[b~β]* <i>b</i>				[d] <i>d</i>					[g~ɣ]* <i>g</i>	[g ^w] <i>gw</i>	[ɡ͡b] <i>ɡ͡b</i>		
	<u>prenasalized</u>	[^m b] <i>mb</i>				[ⁿ d] <i>nd</i>	[ⁿ d ^w] <i>ndw^{††}</i>				[^ŋ g] <i>ŋg</i>	[^ŋ g ^w] <i>ŋgw</i>	[^ŋ m͡ɡ͡b] <i>mɡ͡b[§]</i>		
Affricate	<u>voiceless</u>							[t͡ʃ] <i>c</i>	[t͡ʃ ^w] <i>cw^{††}</i>						
	<u>voiced</u>							[d͡ʒ] <i>j</i>	[d͡ʒ ^w] <i>jw^{††}</i>						
	<u>prenasalized</u>							[ⁿ d͡ʒ] <i>ŋj[§]</i>							
Fricative	<u>voiceless</u>			[f] <i>f</i>	[f ^w] <i>fw^{††}</i>	[s] <i>s</i>	[s ^w] <i>sw^{††}</i>							[h] <i>h</i>	[h ^w] <i>hw[‡]</i>
	<u>voiced</u>			[v] <i>v</i>											
	<u>prenasalized</u>			[^m v] <i>mv[§]</i>											
Approximant						[l~ɾ~ɹ]** <i>l~ɾ~ɹ</i>				[j] <i>y</i>			[w] <i>w</i>		

*becomes a fricative intervocalically. [ŋɡáɓ] "they" -> [ŋɡáβè] "their"

**initially: [leè] "wall ; intervocalically: [tòɾò] "papaya ; finally: [bɛ́ɾ] "oil palm tree"

[†]Doume dialect only.

^{††}Doume and eastern dialects only.

[‡]Central dialects only'

^{‡‡}Only vowels /i/ /e/ /a/ may follow a labialized consonant.

[§] Low frequency^[4]

Tones^[3]

There are more phonemic tones than are marked in orthography, such as mid-high rising tone and mid tone being both unmarked <a> for example. Phonologically-conditioned downstep is unmarked.

Tone Category	IPA	Orthography	Example	Gloss
high tone	˥	á, áá	tím	blood
mid tone	˧	a, aa	məb	louse
low tone	˩	à, àà	tɛ̃mnɛ̃	to drown
mid-high	˧˥	a, áá	tɛ̃m	antelope
low-high*	˩˥	à	bùn	grass
high-low	˥˩	â, áà	bɛ̃ŋ	round, complete
high-mid	˧˥	â, áa	mîn	good
high-low-high	˥˩˥	âá	sîim	rainy season

*Only in eastern dialects, on short vowels. All other dialects merge this class with low tone.

Vowels^[3]

Oral		Nasal	
Long	Short	Long	Short
[i:] ii	[i~ɪ] i	[i:] ɨɨ	[ɨ] ɨ̃ [†]
[e:] ee	[e~ɛ] e	[ɛ:] ɛɛ	[ɛ] ɛ̃
[ɛ:] ɛ̃ɛ [†]	[ɛ] ɛ̃	[ɛ:] ɛ̃ɛ̃	[ɛ̃] ɛ̃̃
[ə:] əə [†]	[ə] ə	[ə:] ɐɐ	[ə̃] ɐ̃ [†]
[a:] aa	[a] a	[ã:] ɶɶ	[ã] ɶ̃
[u:] uu	[u~ʊ] u	[ũ:] ʊʊ	[ũ] ʊ̃
[o:] oo	[o~ɔ] o	[õ:] ɹɹ	[õ] ɹ̃
[ɔ:] ɔɔ*	[ɔ] ɔ*	[õ:] ɹ̃ɹ̃	[õ̃] ɹ̃̃ [†]
[ei] ei		[ẽĩ] ɛ̃ɨ̃	
[ai] ai		[ãĩ] ɶ̃ɨ̃	
[ɛi] ɛ̃i		[ĩĩ] ɨ̃ɨ̃	
[əi] əi		[ẽĩ] ɐ̃ɨ̃	
[oi] oi		[õĩ] ɹ̃ɨ̃	

* /ɔ/ only contrasts from /o/ in open syllables and before velar final consonants: /k/ and /ŋ/. When preceding bilabial and alveolar final consonants, [ɔ] is understood to be an allophone of /o/.

[†] Low frequency

References

1. Vute (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/vut/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Vute" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vute1244>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Thwing, Rhonda (2004) [1981]. "Vute Orthography Statement" (<https://www.sil.org/system/files/ reapdata/11/55/22/115522908478046307089743534852515072088/VuteOrthography.pdf>) (PDF). *General Alphabet of Cameroonian Languages*.
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